



January 26, 2005

## **Providence man is sentenced to 200 months for two kilograms of cocaine, 20 pounds of marijuana**

A federal judge has sentenced **Jose N. Castro**, 33, of Providence, to 200 months in federal prison for trafficking in cocaine and marijuana. In May, detectives working with the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force** seized 20 pounds of marijuana from the trunk of Castro's car and two kilograms of cocaine from the apartment where he was staying.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on January 21 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In October, Castro pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and possessing with intent to distribute marijuana. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers said that the government had proof that, on May 13, 2004, state police detectives seized 20 pounds of marijuana from the trunk of Castro's car after he had parked it near the state Traffic Tribunal building on Harris Avenue in Providence.

Afterward, detectives searched apartment A11 at 159 Bridgham Avenue and seized two kilograms of cocaine and an additional quantity of marijuana. Further investigation determined that Castro had been staying at the apartment and the cocaine was his.

The **HIDTA Task Force**, which investigated the case, is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rogers prosecuted the case.